

AUGUST 6, 2015

# REBUILD BY DESIGN

■ RESIST ■ DELAY ■ STORE ■ DISCHARGE ■

## HUDSON RIVER

Hoboken Weehawken Jersey City | New Jersey

### CAG MEETING SUMMARY



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**DATE:** August 6, 2015  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** 124 Grand Street | Hoboken | NJ  
**PURPOSE:** Discuss Purpose and Need with the CAG and gather input from the community

Table 1: List of Attendees

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Mayor Zimmer	✓	City of Hoboken
Brandy Forbes	✓	Hoboken
Lou Casciano	✓	CAG: Hoboken CERT Team
Jaclyn Cherubini	✓	CAG: Hoboken Homeless Shelter
Tiffanie Fisher	✓	CAG: Tea Building resident
Bob Foster	✓	CAG: Hoboken Historical Museum
Jennifer Gonzalez	✓	CAG: Green Team
Ron Hine	✓	CAG: Fund for a Better Waterfront
Gary Holtzman	✓	CAG: Planning Board
Rev. Marvin Krieger	✓	CAG: Community Church of Hoboken

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Vito Lanotte	✓	CAG: Hudson Tea Building Condo Association
Kevin O'Brien	✓	CAG: The Shipyard Marina
Latrenda	✓	CAG: Hoboken Housing Authority
Renee Russell	✓	CAG
David Shehigian	✓	CAG: Jubilee Center
Noelle Thurlow	✓	CAG: Resilience Adventures
Rich Tremitedi	✓	CAG: Shipyard
Ruthy Tyroler	✓	CAG: Board of Education
Francoise Vielot	✓	CAG: Hoboken Family Alliance
Ora H. Welch	✓	CAG: HOPES
Naomi Hsu	✓	CAG: Jersey City Senior Transportation Planner
Marsilia Boyle	✓	CAG: The LeFrak Organization (Jersey City)
Gregg Lanez	✓	CAG: JC Environmental Commission (Jersey City)
Ivan Schlachter	✓	CAG: Weehawken
Kostas Svarnas	✓	Newport
Debra Italiano	✓	Sustainable JC
Richard Weinstein	✓	-
Nurur Chaudury	✓	Rebuild By Design
Jessica Tribble	✓	Newport Associates
Rich Tremitedi	✓	CAG: Shipyard
Jessica Tribble	✓	Newport
Ileana Ivanciu	✓	Dewberry
John Boulé	✓	Dewberry
Ken Spahn	✓	Dewberry
Rahul Parab	✓	Dewberry
Larry Smith	✓	Dewberry
Gary Doss	✓	Dewberry
Mike Sears	✓	Dewberry
Sara Dougherty	✓	Dewberry
Zachary Davis	✓	Dewberry

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Cliff Moore	✓	Dewberry
Jennifer Baer	✓	Dewberry
Olivia Dolan	✓	Dewberry
Clay Sherman	✓	NJDEP
Dave Rosenblatt	✓	NJDEP
Frank Schwarz	✓	NJDEP
Kerry Pflugh	✓	NJDEP
Ryan Walsh	✓	Fitzgerald & Halliday
Michael Ahillen	✓	Fitzgerald & Halliday
Daniel Pittman	✓	OMA
Helen Billson	✓	OMA
Laura Baird	✓	OMA
Alyson Beha	✓	HUD

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

1. Welcome and Introductions from Mayor Zimmer and Dave Rosenblatt from NJDEP
2. Presentation  
The presentation provided a general project overview, including a project timeline; an introduction to the Dewberry Team and how Dewberry fits in with the overall New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) project team; a background on the project's Rebuild By Design (RBD) history; an introduction into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and the reasons why NEPA is applicable; a breakdown of the Community Outreach Plan and how the Citizen Action Group (CAG) fits into the project; and a description of Purpose and Need as it relates to the NEPA process.
3. Breakout Sessions
4. Prior to the breakout sessions questions were raised expressing concern about site locations for proposed improvements and how the plan is going to affect moderate to low income families. Mayor Zimmer responded that the plan is a comprehensive plan intended to protect the entire city, not separate properties. Concern was also raised about making the dates and times publicly available for these meetings. Mayor Zimmer responded with the dates and locations of upcoming meetings, where the information about the meetings can be found, and finished by explaining the role of public observers at CAG meetings.
5. Ileana Ivanciu of Dewberry further explains the NEPA process and importance of the breakout sessions.
6. Breakout Sessions Officially Begin  
The CAG members were divided into five groups led by a Dewberry Team moderator and were asked to discuss what they believed the purpose, need and goals/objectives were for the project. After approximately 40 minutes, the breakout sessions ended and the individual groups reported back to the overall CAG the results of their discussions (see Items 7-9 below).

## 7. Breakout Session Feedback: Purpose

- To be protected from all types of flooding: minimize destruction and disruption
- To be able to maintain quality of life as if it was a sunny day; keep life going as smoothly as possible
- Maintain water access while protecting vulnerable areas
- High-tide and high-water issues as well, not just extreme disasters
- Emergency response during storm events
- Resiliency and recovery
- To protect business communities, residents, infrastructure, and Hoboken in general without disrupting the landscape; maintain aesthetic values
- High cost of flood insurance
- Climate change and sea level rise

## 8. Breakout Session Feedback: Need

- Many areas of Hoboken are below sea level
- Very dense environment in many different areas; few places for water to go
- The health hazards associated with flooding
- Economically vulnerable and elderly populations with less access to emergency response
- Communication during emergencies
- Flooding is an ongoing issue
- Sewer system improvements; CSOs
- Protection of emergency service related buildings and electrical infrastructure
- Relocate or reconsider evacuation sites as well as evacuation routes
- Breaching points
- Assurance that populations are not displaced due to construction/infrastructure changes
- Mayor Zimmer provided feedback on the need for the project to meet FEMA 500-year floodplain protection.

## 9. Breakout Session Feedback: Goals and Objectives

- Avoid evacuation
- Increase accessibility to all areas during flood (ex: addition helicopter pad(s))
- Guaranteed long-lasting durability of project
- Increased resilience
- Protection of the Housing Authority, Hoboken Terminal, Weehawken Cove, emergency services and equipment, and schools
- Utilize every possible venue to retain water (ex: high school field); Utilize pre-existing infrastructure and/or projects to maximize space and productivity
- Keep the water on
- Work with FEMA and NFIP to help them understand the unique situation of Hoboken and to take this urban environment into account
- Fix breaching points, storm drains, etc. while maintaining quality of life
- Use engineering and technology to overcome flooding issues
- To be respectful to neighboring cities
- To make this a model project

## 10. Presentation

## 11. Questions from the Public

- CAG members asked how and where the money gets spent, and who decides where and when the money will go. Ken Spahn of Dewberry answered that the entire process will determine what needs to be done, and that the project must be evaluated comprehensively to decide where the funding will go. He mentioned that it may end up being a phased approach, we will use the \$230M to determine the most critical area.
- CAG member also requested tools to inform the public about the project (such as posters or power points). Ken Spahn answered that it is definitely something that can be developed. Kerry Pflugh from NJDEP agreed, and mentioned that tonight's power point may be useful. She also mentioned that Clay Sherman of the NJDEP had created a two-page flyer, and closed by saying that whatever is decided to be possibly helpful to the public can be put online and made available for download.
- Another CAG member asked if transit authorities and utilities, etc. will be a part of the process. Ken Spahn answered that yes, they are a part of the process and are on the Technical Coordination Team (TCT).
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Table 2: List of Action Items

Action Item	Assigned To	Due Date	Status
Create a tool (fact sheet) that can be distributed to the public to spark interest and explain the project	Dewberry	Prior to next CAG meeting	In process
Continue to gather input from the community to report back at next meeting	CAG	Prior to next CAG meeting	In process

We believe the foregoing record to be an accurate summary of the meeting and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to these minutes within five (5) days of receipt. Without notification, we will consider these minutes to be a record of fact.